

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are replacement figure sheets for Figures 1-3, which include the changes, without markings, identified below.

The legend of Figures 1-3 has been amended to include “(Background Art)”.

REMARKS

In this amendment, claims 16-18, 21, 24, 26-29 and 34 have been amended, and new claims 39-68 have been added. Accordingly, claims 16-68 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 16, 18, 21, 24, 26-29, 43, 52 and 60 are independent.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 16-23, 26-27 and 29-38 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. Support for the amendments and added claims may be found at least in Figures 4A, 4B, 5 and 6 and pages 7-14 of the specification.

Claims 24, 25 and 28 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting. More specifically, claims 24 and 25 are alleged as being unpatentable over claims 7 and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,774, and claim 28 is alleged to be unpatentable over claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,774.


Claims 24 and 28 have been amended, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Additionally, since claim 25 depends from claim 24, the rejection of claim 25 is also rendered moot by the amendment to claim 24. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims passed to issue.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections to the claims, and requests that the claims be passed to issuance. If the Examiner desires any additional information, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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